18. **Public Works.**—The inadequacy of the allotment for public works which marked the period coeval with the war was remedied in the year 1096, when large supplemental grants were sanctioned with a view to effect substantial progress in the development of communications. The total expenditure under public works in 1096 amounted to Rs. 37·86 lakhs, reaching the pre-war figure of 1090 and showing an increase of 15·6 per cent. over the outlay in the previous year. A good portion of the roads opened by private agencies in Central Travancore has been taken over for departmental maintenance, and public criticism has been invited on the draft rules framed for standardising the future construction of such roads and the assumption of their management by the Government. Government would welcome further criticism of these rules by the members of the Assembly before they are issued in their final shape, and it is hoped that, when the rules are eventually passed, private agencies will so construct these roads as to render it easier for the Government to assume their management. As the supervision and control of Division Maramat works by Peishkars was found to be defective, that duty was entrusted to an Executive Engineer deputed from the regular *cadre* with effect from the beginning of 1097. This measure should result in economy, uniformity and efficiency. Another measure of importance undertaken during the period is the passing of the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation, VI of 1096, calculated to improve the administration of public canals and waterways and to secure a more effective control of the vessels plying over them. A set of rules under this Regulation will be soon issued, which will enable the Government to deal more effectively with the administration of waterways which are so conspicuous a feature of this country.

19. **Railways.**—The important subject of the extension of railways has received the attention of the Government. Owing to the delay in the final settlement of the exact nature and extent of the participation of this State in the development of the Cochin Harbour, the consideration of the question of the extension of the railway from Kottarakara or Kundara in the direction of Cochin has had to be necessarily postponed. Arrangements, however, are almost complete for the commencement of a reconnaissance survey for the extension of the present line from Quilon to Trivandrum up to Nagercoil, while the economic survey of the forest wealth of the Neriamangalam Valley, already referred to, has been undertaken with the main object of ascertaining whether a railway from the High Range to the coast along the course of that valley would be a paying concern.

20. **Medical Relief and Public Health.**—The Government Bacteriologist, after undergoing the requisite training in Kasauli and Madras, returned to Trivandrum and commenced work in the laboratory newly fitted up for him. Malaria and anæmia are responsible for undermining the health of a large number of people in this country, and Government have appointed a special officer to conduct investigations into the causation of these diseases and formulate measures calculated to minimise their incidence. This officer has already sent up his report on the causation of malaria by mosquitoes in the town of Trivandrum and will in due course engage himself in the study of elephantiasis and its causative factors. The Lepers Regulation has been amended by Ragulation IV of 1097, and power has been taken in the amending Regulation to compel lepers of all stages to go to Asylums. The C. M. S. Leper Asylum at Alleppey and the L. M. S. Leper Asylum at Neyyur have been awarded grants-in-aid. The Department of Ayurveda has been thoroughly reorganised and the Trivandrum Ayurveda Pathasala has been converted into a college with a correspondingly large staff. The post of Inspector of Vaidyasalas has been created with a view to make the grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas more useful and efficient. The country was throughout the year free from epidemic diseases. A law for the compulsory registration of vital statistics has been passed as Regulation VII of 1096, and when the necessary arrangements have been made to give effect to the provisions of this Regulation, much of the inaccuracy in the registration of births and deaths observable at present may be expected to disappear. Orders have been issued to make arrangements for giving ten Vernacular school teachers a course of training in Hygiene during the next summer vacation. The selected teachers, after training,

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will be posted in the eight lower grade and the two higher grade vernacular training schools for boys to instruct pupil teachers in the method of teaching Hygiene.

21. Education.—Special attention was paid during the year to the expansion and improvement of education in all its branches. As foreshadowed in my address last year, a special conference of officials and non-officials was held in April last to consider the report of the Education Expenditure Committee and the *interim* report of the Committee appointed for the revision of the curricula of studies in vernacular schools for boys. This conference, after a careful consideration and full discussion of the several issues raised in the two reports, arrived at certain final conclusions which were accepted and sanctioned by the Government in their order No. 1034 of 1921/L & L. G., dated the 18th July 1921. The most important among the decisions of the conference were (1) that primary education should continue to be free and that the goal of universal primary education should be reached by the State as quickly as possible ; (2) that English should be taught as a compulsory subject in vernacular middle schools, the staff thereof being strengthened to the necessary extent ; (3) that elementary manual training should be introduced in primary schools and the higher forms of manual training in vernacular middle schools ; (4) that the increase in grants to primary school teachers announced by me at the last session of the Assembly was not adequate and that more liberal grants should be awarded to private schools, both English and vernacular, to encourage private effort ; (5) that the salaries of teachers, especially of primary school teachers, should be enhanced ; and (6) that with a view to meet the additional expenditure involved in the improvements suggested, the fees in vernacular middle and English schools as well as colleges should be suitably increased. Other decisions of the conference are also dealt with in that G. O., but it is not necessary for me to recapitulate them here, beyond stating that the conference expressed itself strongly against the introduction of vocational training in institutions which are intended for general education. In regard to manual training, Government have recently ordered that the under-graduate teachers who are now employed as instructors in manual training in the ten departmental vernacular training schools for boys should be retained there to impart instruction to the pupil teachers coming up to those institutions for training, that 200 teachers who have received the necessary instruction in manual training should be posted, one to each departmental vernacular middle school, where they should teach simple forms of manual training in classes I to IV and the higher forms of the same in classes V and VI, that an attempt should be made to introduce gradually elementary manual training in the primary schools also, by the appointment in them of trained teachers who have received instruction in manual training, and that it would be enough to introduce manual training into English schools after the system has been perfected in vernacular schools. A liberal scheme of scholarships and freeships is under preparation, and the provisions of this scheme are calculated to help the really poor and deserving portion of the pupils in vernacular middle and English schools. A scheme for the medical inspection of pupils in recognised English schools by qualified medical officers has been formulated and the draft rules on the subject have been published in the Gazette with a view to elicit public criticism. This scheme will be introduced with effect from the beginning of the next school year and it is likely to cost the Government a sum of about Rs. 5,000 per annum. As promised by me last year, steps are being taken for the establishment of a chair for the teaching of Natural Science in His Highness the Maha Raja's College with effect from the beginning of the next academical year. A hostel for women was recently attached to the Women's College.

22. Students' Strikes.—The educational expenditure of the Government is going up rapidly. It was Rs. 25·83 lakhs in 1095 and Rs. 29·90 lakhs in 1096 ; it is estimated at Rs. 32·21 lakhs in 1097, but the actuals are bound to exceed even this figure. In pursuance of the decision of the Conference that the fees in vernacular middle and English schools ought to be raised in view to find a fraction at least of the additional funds required to give effect to its recommendations, Government resolved to increase by 50 per cent. the fees in the vernacular schools where English was proposed to be compulsorily taught and by half a rupee each per mensem the

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